



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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"Even greater wildlife resources than we now have will be required and demanded by the American nation for public enjoyment after the war is ended," Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, predicted today in calling attention to the observance of National Wildlife Restoration Week, March 18 to 24.

"The enjoyment derived from out-of-doors recreation in America is one of the things that makes this country worth fighting for," said Dr. Gabrielson. Because men now overseas are eagerly looking forward to the time of their return home when they will again be free to seek recreation in our woods and waters, we can rightfully expect that increased demands for hunting and fishing opportunities will immediately follow the war."

Data covering the last World War showed that there was a gradual increase in the number of hunters and sport fishermen during the war and a pronounced increase immediately following. The increases were 1.6 percent from 1916 to 1917, 2.6 percent from 1917 to 1918, and nearly 30 percent immediately after the war from 1918 to 1919.

In addition, as Dr. Gabrielson pointed out, large numbers of men now serving in the armed forces who have learned to shoot as part of their military training will swell the ranks of hunters after the war.

During National Wildlife Restoration Week, sponsored annually by the National Wildlife Federation, Dr. Gabrielson urged that every effort be made to make America "conservation-conscious".

"Our fishery and wildlife resources are a very important part of the national wealth. Their multiple values to our citizens make them worth whatever effort and expenditure is necessary to maintain them at a high productive level of abundance. Like any form of wealth, these resources—that provide food, recreation, clothing, pharmaceutical products, and many other necessary products—may be misspent and wasted through want of care.

"During the war we have pursued the policy of promoting the maximum utilization of our fishery and wildlife resources wherever they can contribute. At the same time we have not lost sight of the long-time objectives of restoring our previously misspent resources and of insuring, by all feasible means, that the Nation's wildlife may serve all of its citizens in greater measure for all time to come."